During the year 2007-08, of the Eleventh Plan the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, sanctioned Rs. 2783.03 lakh to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 1194.75 lakh to the Government of Bihar for development and promotion of tourism.

Funds for infrastructure development for tourism promotion

2472. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated to various States, particularly Himachal Pradesh, for the current financial year to develop infrastructure in order to promote tourism;

(b) the funds released so far to Himachal Pradesh for development of events like Himalayan Car Race, Great Himalayan Marathon and Mountain biking etc.;

(c) whether any Committee has been constituted to monitor the progress of the work in the State; and

(d) if so, what have been the findings of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Development of infrastructure for promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories on the basis of project proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. There is no State-wise allocation of funds. During 2007-08, Rs. 645.13 crore was sanctioned for 277 projects for development and promotion of tourism in the country. Out of this Rs. 22.86 crore was sanctioned for 12 projects in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Rs. 0.16 crore was released for events of Mountain Biking, Himalayan Adventure Race and Great Himalayan Marathon in Himachal Pradesh during 2007-08.

(c) and (d) Implementation of tourism projects is the responsibility of the State

Bottled water plants

2473. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an environment research group The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has recently conducted studies on pockets all over the country where MNC's bottled water plants are located;

(b) whether the study found that the company's use of scarce water sources call for regulation due to worsening water situation and a source of stress to the communities around especially in Kaladera in Rajasthan; and

(c) whether the Centre would ensure that licences for setting up mineral water bottle plants are restricted to water abundant areas with constant monitoring of ground water level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per available reports, 'The Energy Research Institute' (TERI) conducted an independent assessment of a company's water management policies and practices.

(b) The study has found that ground water levels in Kaladera area in Rajasthan are declining due to ground water withdrawal and that it forms parts of over-exploited Govindgarh block of Jaipur district.

(c) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued guidelines for regulation of withdrawal of ground water in over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas.

Programme for flood control

†2474. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to formulate a comprehensive programme for carrying the water from frequently, flooded parts of the country and surplus water flowing in rivers to drought prone areas and also to control floods in vast areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980. The NPP comprises of two components *viz.* (i) Peninsular Rivers Development and (ii) Himalayan Rivers Development and envisages construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of Interbasin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP. The Inter-linking proposals under NPP envisages additional benefits of 25 million ha. of irrigation from surface waters, 10 million ha. by increased use of ground waters and generation of 34,000 MW of power apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, water supply, salinity and pollution control etc.

Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 links under Peninsular Component and 14 links under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed. NWDA has taken up the work of Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link viz. Ken—Betwa under Peninsular Component.

Survey of Pancheshwar Project

†2475. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether joint survey of Pancheshwar Project has been completed;

(b) if not, by when it will be completed;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.